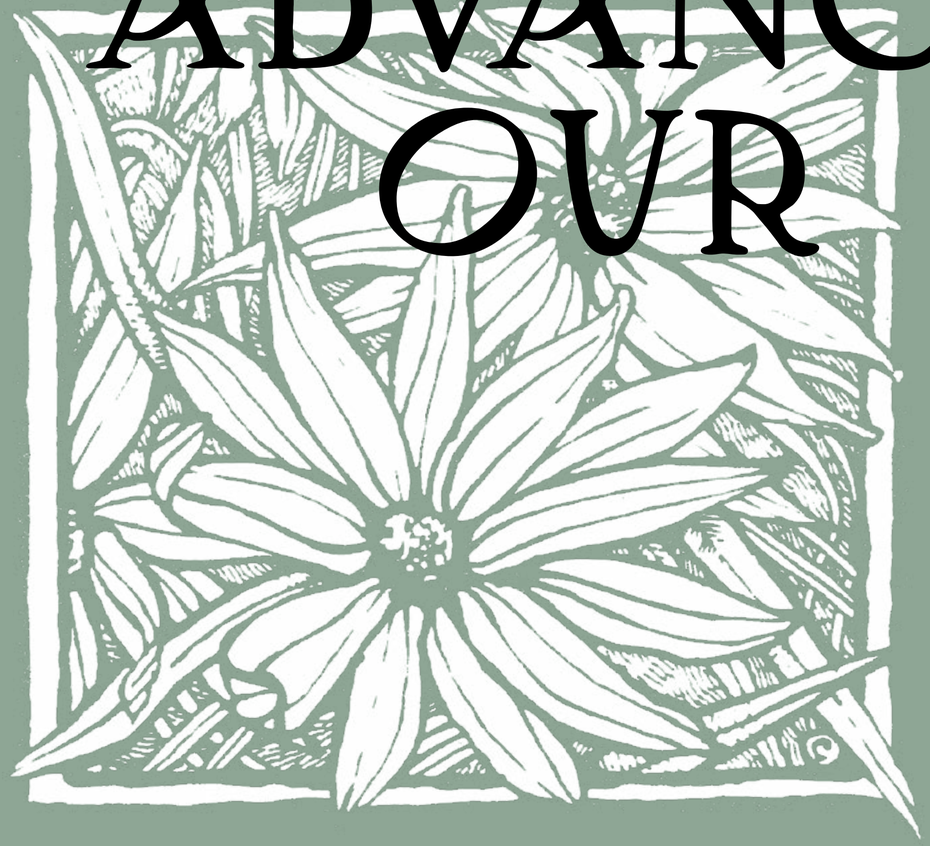
NATIVE PLANTS: ADVANCING OUR DIALOGUE WITH NATURE



33RD ANNUAL
LAHR SYMPOSIUM

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SATURDAY
3.30.19

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PROGRAM
OF EVENTS

SCHEDULE

CLICK TO REGISTER →

8:30	Registration and Plant Sale
9:30	Welcome and Introductions Dr. Richard Olsen, Director, U.S. National Arboretum Joan Feely, Curator, Fern Valley Native Plant Collection, U.S. National Arboretum
9:40	The New Workhorses of the Garden: Native Grasses and Sedges Shannon Currey
10:45	Refreshment Break
11:00	Two Signature North American Natives: Leather-flowers and Wakerobins Aaron Floden
12:00	Lunch and Plant Sale
CONCURRENT SESSIONS (1:15 - 2:25)	Alien Weeds: Art from an Insistent Abundance Patterson Clark Finding Nature in All the Wrong Places Brett McMillan Signs of Success at Springhouse Run Restoration Angela Magnan and Max Fedeli
2:25	Looking to Nature for Beauty with Less Maintenance Cole Burrell
3:30	Adjourn

THE NEW WORKHORSES OF THE GARDEN: NATIVE GRASSES AND SEDGES

SHANNON CURREY

Shifting attitudes toward native plants and the benefits of ecological-based planting design make grasses and sedges more popular than ever. They play many roles, from well-behaved groundcover to seasonal superstar, and often reduce the need for maintenance, fertilizer, and pesticides. Their ability to anchor the soil and help manage stormwater explains their workhorse reputation, but their beauty adds to their appeal. Focusing on garden functionality, Shannon Currey shows us where and when native grasses and sedges do their best work. You'll also get a peek at what plant breeders and the horticulture industry are seeking in new selections.

Shannon Currey became Marketing Director for Hoffman Nursery after studying landscape design and horticulture at North Carolina State University. In 2007, she joined Hoffman, helping this wholesale operation develop one of the most diverse inventories of native grasses and sedges in the nation. She writes articles for national trade publications and gives talks on grasses to landscape design professionals, horticulture industry organizations, and at public gardens. Currently Shannon serves as Southern Region Director for the Perennial Plant Association.

AARON FLODEN

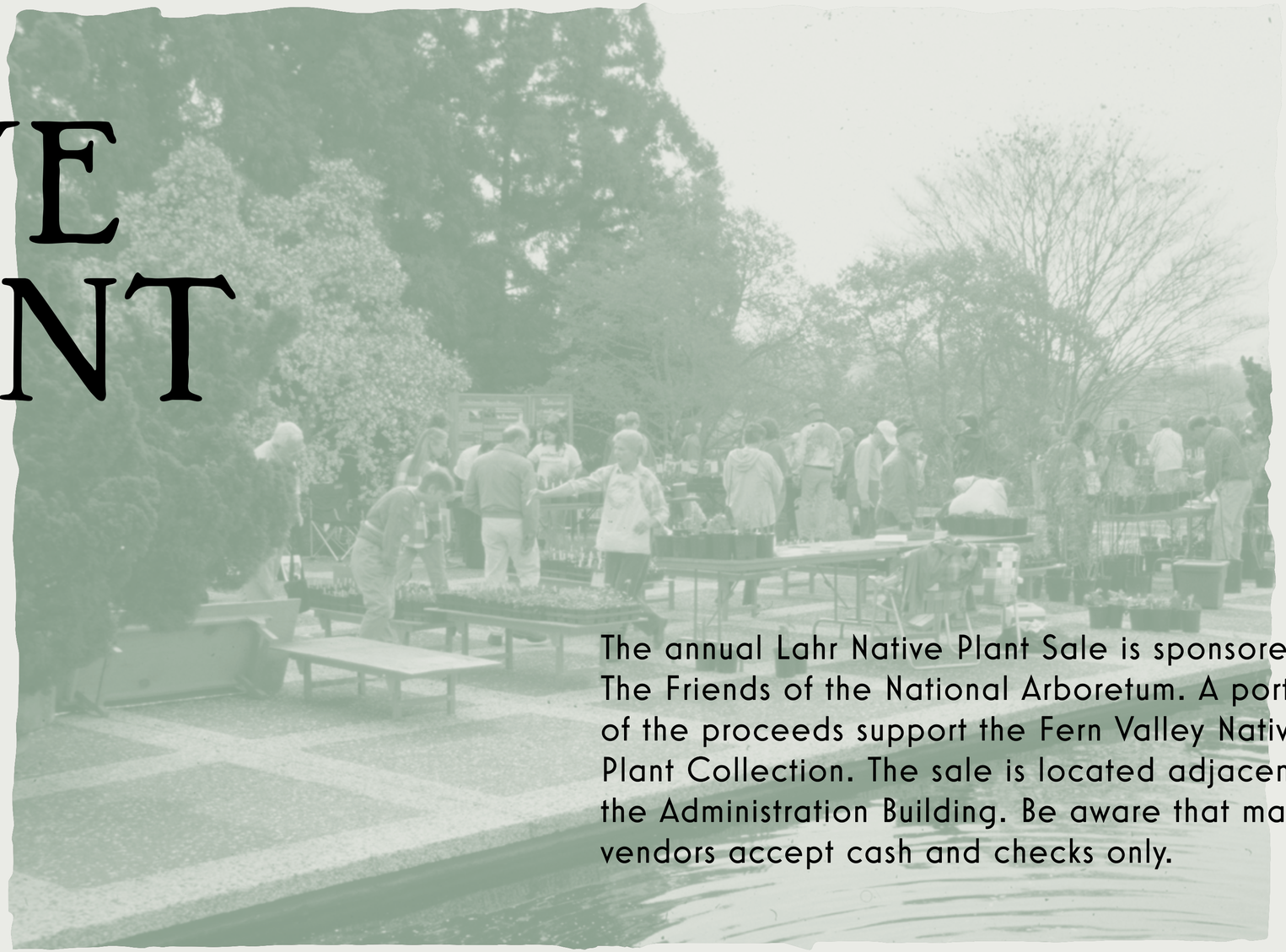
TWO SIGNATURE NORTH AMERICAN NATIVES:

LEATHER-FLOWERS AND WAKEROBINS

Most of us look forward to the Trillium (wakerobins) as native harbingers of spring, but the North American Clematis (leather-flowers) are less well known. Aaron Floden introduces us to what the latest molecular and field studies reveal about the natural history of these two exciting, garden-worthy groups of plants and their potential in the landscape. Hear about newly discovered species of these much-admired plants, and learn what characteristics of leather-flowers and wakerobins make them especially interesting to taxonomists and present-day plant explorers of eastern North America.

Dr. Aaron Floden works at the Missouri Botanical Garden as the Curator of the Flora of Missouri (including the broader Midwest and parts of the Southeast). He received his doctorate from the University of Tennessee and has done fieldwork throughout the southeastern U.S., parts of the Midwest, India, China, and Vietnam. While hiking in India, Aaron discovered five new species of Polygonatum, and is currently working on the systematics of undescribed species of Monarda. A modern botanist whose work is herbarium and molecular based, he grows nearly 3000 species of plants in his small St. Louis, MO, garden.

NATIVE PLANT SALE

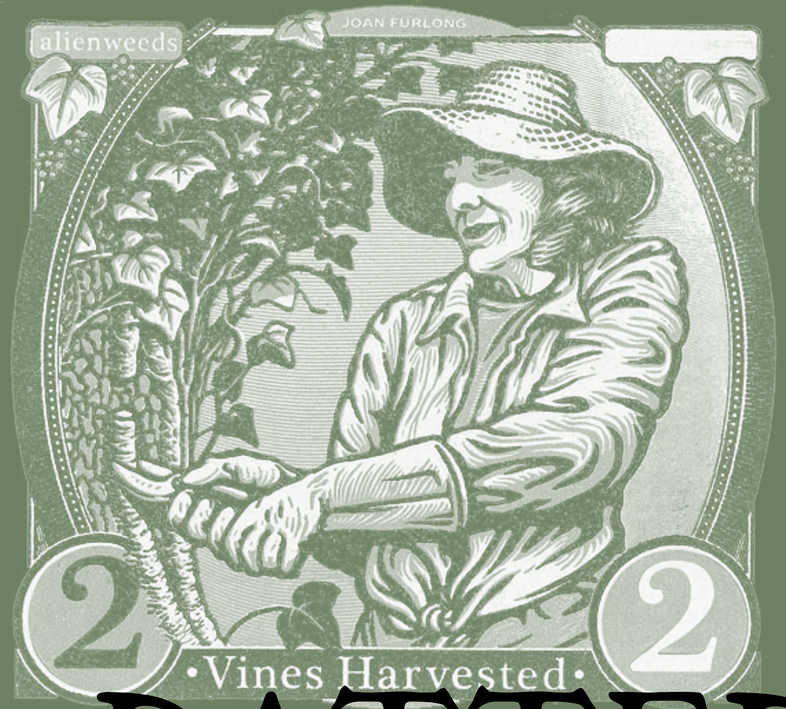


8:30 AM
-2:00 PM

The annual Lahr Native Plant Sale is sponsored by The Friends of the National Arboretum. A portion of the proceeds support the Fern Valley Native Plant Collection. The sale is located adjacent to the Administration Building. Be aware that many vendors accept cash and checks only.

ALIEN WEEDS:

ART FROM
AN INSISTENT
ABUNDANCE



PATTERSON CLARK

Many of us have participated in invasive plant removal. But did you know the abundant yield of harvested exotic weeds can be processed into fuel, chemicals, inks, lumber, paper, and woven fibers? Patterson Clark's eye-opening presentation illustrates the use of invasive plant parts – bark, leaves, stems, and other plant tissues – transforming them from the fruits of invasive removal projects into the materials to create evocative visual art. His presentation includes a hands-on demonstration of making paper from the prolific white mulberry.

Patterson Clark has been harvesting (and thereby removing) Washington D.C.'s exotic invasive vegetation for more than fifteen years, exploring its potential for use as art, food, fuel and fiber. The fruits of his labors are documented on his website Alienweeds.com. For many years a graphics editor at The Washington Post, Patterson also wrote and beautifully illustrated the Post's natural history column, "Urban Jungle." Today he is a senior graphics editor at POLITICO Pro, where he produces data visualizations related to energy and environmental policy.

FINDING NATURE IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES

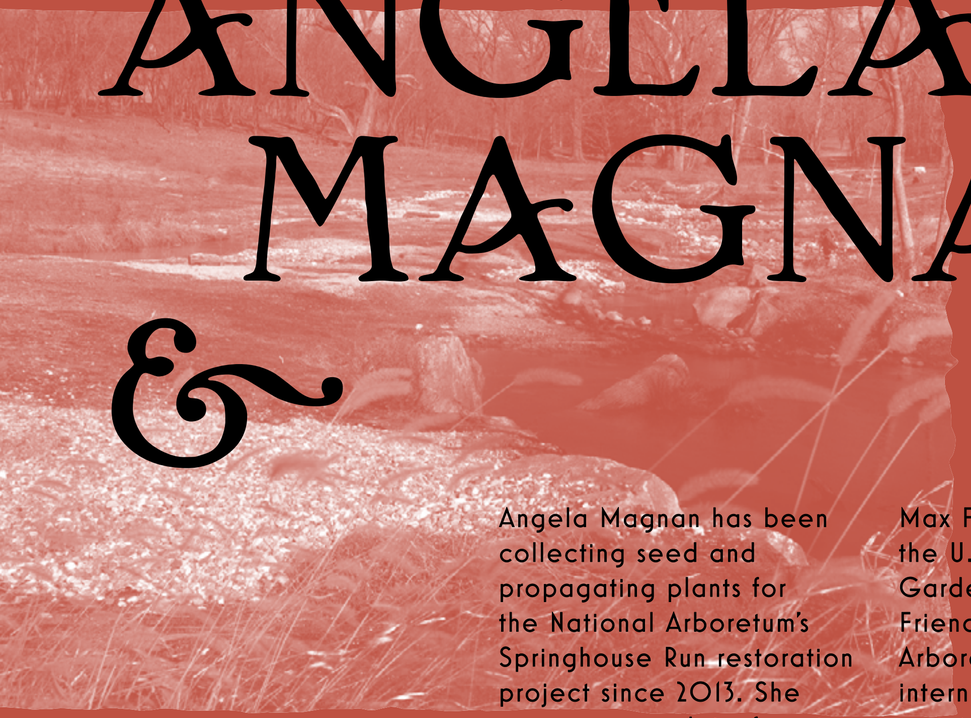
BRETT McMILLAN

A wide diversity of tough plants survive, even flourish, in unexpected and overlooked landscapes. Brett McMillan explores parks and hidden corners of the urban environment to discover and identify what grows there. Learn how he engages audiences by recounting plants' medicinal, poisonous, or allergycausing characteristics during his explorations, whether with his high school science students or native plant society enthusiasts. Brett will also recommend useful apps to track natives and invasives in our metropolises.

Brett McMillan is an ecologist who studied native dune plants of Virginia's eastern shore and the impact of invasive plants on urban forests. Originally from eastern Tennessee, near Great Smoky Mountains National Park, he received degrees in biology, botany, and ecology from Berea College (KY), University of Florida and Old Dominion University (VA) respectively. Brett is an upper school science teacher at the Bryn Mawr School in Baltimore and a board member of the Maryland Native Plant Society. He is an enthusiastic field trip leader, exploring natural and not-so-natural botanical areas in metropolitan Baltimore.

ANGELA MAGNAN & MAX FEDELI

SIGNS OF SUCCESS AT SPRINGHOUSE RUN RESTORATION



This spring-fed tributary of the Anacostia, polluted for decades by highway run-off and clogged with sediments, has been transformed from a weedy channelized ditch into a beautiful stream with a gently sloping flood plain. Thousands of locally sourced native plants, propagated at the Arboretum, were planted along the banks by volunteers, creating a healthier landscape alive with birds, insects, and other wildlife. Tour the 6-acre Arboretum site with Angela Magnan and Max Fedeli to learn about the restoration process, challenges encountered, and signs of success.

Angela Magnan has been collecting seed and propagating plants for the National Arboretum's Springhouse Run restoration project since 2013. She grew up on a dairy farm in Vermont, and after receiving degrees in biochemistry and science writing, decided to return to the land via the field of horticulture. She will complete an online minor in horticulture from Oregon State University in the summer of 2019.

Max Fedeli, a member of the U.S. National Arboretum's Gardens Unit, was the Friends of the National Arboretum Springhouse Run intern in 2018. While helping maintain Springhouse Run, Max helped with volunteer planting days as well as weekly water quality monitoring tests. With a degree in environmental studies from the University of Vermont, Max hopes to continue pursuing a career in sustainable horticulture.

COLE BURRELL

C. Colston Burrell, MLA, is a popular lecturer, awardwinning author of 12 gardening books, landscape designer, photographer, and garden and nature tourguide extraordinaire. He is principal of Native Landscape Design and Restoration, specializing in blending nature and culture through artistic design.

In 2008, Cole received the Award of Distinction from the Association of Professional Landscape Designers for his work promoting sustainable gardening. A certified chlorophyll addict, avid and lifelong plantsman, gardener and naturalist, Cole gardens on 10 wild acres in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.

LOOKING TO NATURE FOR BEAUTY WITH LESS MAINTENANCE

Discover beautiful native plant combinations and savvy techniques that reduce garden maintenance by taking advantage of natural processes and localized garden conditions. Drawing on decades of design and horticulture expertise, Cole Burrell demonstrates how to exploit self-sowers, create pleasing layers, underplant with groundcovers, and edit for aesthetics and easier upkeep. He will show how even a little benign neglect can make us more efficient gardeners. Achieve a picture-perfect garden using relevant time and moneysaving strategies Cole has learned as a lifelong plantsman and ecologist.

INFORMATION

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

The National Arboretum is located at 2400 R Street NE, Washington, DC. It is easily accessible from Routes 295, 495, and 50. For complete driving directions from all surrounding areas, please see www.usna.usda.gov

There are two gates: one on New York Avenue (Route 50 East) and one at 24th and R Street NE, off of Bladensburg Rd. We strongly recommend using the R Street gate.

PARKING

Free parking can be found just inside the R Street gate, adjacent to the Administration Building. When this lot fills, look for signs to direct you to additional parking.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The closest Metrorail stop is Stadium Armory Station on the Blue and Orange lines. Transfer to the B2 Metrobus; disembark the bus on Bladensburg Road at Rand Street, just past the Arboretum sign on the right. Walk back to the sign at R Street and walk down R Street 3 blocks to the Arboretum entrance.

CLICK TO REGISTER →

Registration fee: $95
Fee for FONA members: $76

Registration includes all sessions, morning coffee, and box lunch.

Please note that this year we are using an external online registration which will add a small fee to the registration.
We are not able to accept checks at this time. Sorry, no refunds will be given for cancellations received after March 20, 2019. For more information, please call 202 245 5898.